

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

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In Reply To:

6230(923)P

July 21, 2004

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 07/21/04

Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2004-080

Expires: 9/30/05

To: State Management Team

From: State Director

Subject: Working with Conservation Districts

DD: 07/28/04

Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2004-214 details the Bureau's effort to extend collaboration with conservation districts, and asks offices to propose potential new partnership opportunities for Washington Office (WO) assistance.

This request is particularly focused toward offices that are minimally or not currently working with conservation districts, and have an issue that would benefit from collaborating with conservation districts. If your proposal is selected by the WO and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the WO will be providing assistance in developing the partnership. The WO will provide staff to facilitate the partnership, including identification of resource needs and support options for an actual project. The WO will not be providing direct funding for projects at this time.

When you are thinking about the types of partnership projects you could enter into with a conservation district, consider but don't limit your ideas to these examples of existing project types: stream restoration and pasture conservation; hazardous fuel reduction projects, education, and forestry management training; weed management cooperative efforts; land use planning; and developing native plant materials for habitat restoration.

The following are the criteria that the WO will use in selecting area(s) for providing partnering assistance. Also, WO IM No. 2004-214 indicates that opportunities for sage grouse habitat conservation enhancement or restoration will receive special consideration.

- Tangible public and private land conservation benefits anticipated from working together, for example, restoration of natural resources and/or establishment or expansion of wildlife habitat,
- High likelihood of durable and lasting results with tangible on-the-ground benefits,
- High likelihood of justifying and getting resource support from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) internal sources or external sources for partnering efforts and bringing in additional partners in the future,
- Enthusiastic BLM and conservation district partners and high likelihood of a strong and sustainable future relationship between BLM office and conservation district.

Please use the attached format and send your nominations electronically to Theresa Hanley by July 28, 2004. The proposals we receive at the State Office will be reviewed and forwarded to the WO. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa at (406) 896-5068.

Signed by: Chun C. Wong, Acting

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

Distribution

Asst. FM Havre-1

Asst. FM Glasgow-1

1 Attachment

1-BLM and Conservation District Partnership Proposal (1 p)

BLM and Conservation District Partnership Proposal

Format for Submitting Nominations

Field Office/NLCS Unit:

Contact:

Conservation District:

Brief Description of Potential Partnership (not to exceed 2 pages):

Existing Relationship (if any) Between BLM and Conservation District:

Partnering opportunity:

Results/Benefits Sought and Expected:

Other Potential Partners: